



# Chief visits ANA, ANP in Gardez

Story by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer  
OSC-A Public Affairs

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Maj. Gen. John Brennan, chief of the Office of Security Cooperation – Afghanistan, traveled to Gardez Province in early October to visit the soldiers of ANA's 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps, the embedded training teams at Camp Lightning and the Afghan National Police at the regional training center.

Brennan conducted a first-hand check of the progress of each site and listened to all issues and concerns they had in order to have an understanding of how to better support them.

During his visit, he met with Camp Lightning Commander, Army Col. Thomas Schuurmans, to discuss the progress of the regional corps and the ETT compound. The embedded trainers moved into Camp Lightning only six months ago and their primary mission is to train, mentor and advise the leaders and soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

"Since I have been here, there have been many improvements



Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

**Maj. Gen. John Brennan, chief of the Office of Security Cooperation – Afghanistan, attends a graduation of 71 new police officers including border police at the regional training center in Gardez.**

made on the compound," said Army Maj. David Babb, a mentor for the G-3 Training Section. "And there are lots of plans to move forward."

Brennan and Schuurmans spoke about Camp Lightning's humanitarian efforts, winterization and infrastructure issues, and driver training for the ANA soldiers.

After receiving an update from the U.S. mentors for each of the five brigades, Brennan toured Camp Lightning and the 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps, then met with the commander of the 203<sup>rd</sup>, ANA Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah Raofi.

Raofi described the completed projects on post such as the 43 barracks with shower and bathroom facilities, a storage warehouse and a training and education building. He also said they had plans to build a 100-bed hospital and a helicopter landing pad.


"We get a lot of support from the ETTs," Raofi said. He then told Brennan that his soldiers have been very busy with combat operations. "With our coalition friends, I know

we will be successful."

The next stop for the general was the Afghan National Police Regional Training Center where he attended a graduation of 71 new police officers and even presented a few graduation certificates. He then toured the training facilities with retired Army Brig. Gen. H. J. Lloyd. Brennan observed training on riot control, hand-to-hand weapon confiscation techniques, AK-47 handling, and basic classroom instruction for border police.

Brennan said one of the highlights of the trip was participating in the destruction of almost 6,000 pounds of hashish the ANA and Romanian ETTs had confiscated the day before.

Brennan plans to continue visiting the regional corps commanders and the ANP regional training centers throughout Afghanistan on a regular basis.

"With regular visits, we can decide what adjustments we need to make to the training and how we can support them better," Brennan said. 



**Commander of the Afghan National Army's 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps, Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah Raofi (left), and Maj. Gen. John Brennan exchange coins during Brennan's visit to Gardez.**